



JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**  
**4700 Ramona Boulevard**  
**Monterey Park, California 91754-2169**



March 11, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN  
AGREEMENT WITH AIR METHODS CORPORATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE CATALINA AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM AND  
GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM APPROACH SHARING PROGRAM**

**SUBJECT**

This letter provides advance notification to the Board that the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (Department) intends to enter into negotiations for an Agreement (Agreement) with Air Methods Corporation (AMC) for the implementation of the Catalina Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) Approach Sharing Program (Program).

**PURPOSE**

The Department will seek delegated authority from the Board to execute the Agreement with AMC to implement the Program to enhance the operations of the Department's Aero Bureau. Aero Bureau flies a variety of missions in support of law enforcement operations throughout the County. Aero Bureau's fleet of helicopters are equipped to utilize instrument approach procedures, and the Department's pilots are rated to fly when using instrument approach procedures. Instrument approach procedures allow equipped helicopters to fly to and from specified locations when weather conditions are not favorable.

*A Tradition of Service*

At this time, the Department does not own or have access to instrument approach procedures at certain locations in the Los Angeles basin. The Agreement will allow the County to acquire licenses to use instrument approach procedures for these locations with no net County cost.

### **BACKGROUND**

The County owns and operates an AWOS located at Pebbly Beach, Santa Catalina Island (Catalina Island). The AWOS at Catalina Island provides local weather information to the Department's helicopters when they fly to and from the helipad at Catalina Island.

AMC and its subsidiaries provide air medical transport services throughout the United States of America. AMC is acquiring instrument approach procedures at several locations throughout the Los Angeles basin, including, but not limited to Catalina Island, and Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center (County USC). The acquisition of the instrument approach procedures will be done at AMC's own expense.

AMC is prepared to pay for upgrades to the County's AWOS at Catalina Island, and grant the County a license to use the instrument approach procedures. In return, the County will grant AMC a license to access weather information from the AWOS at Catalina Island. The Agreement may be terminated at the Sheriff's discretion if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no net County cost.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

The Department does not have access to GPS Approaches into Catalina Island, or County USC. When operating under instrument meteorological conditions, the Department's helicopters are unable to fly to and from these locations. This Program will enhance the Department's response to critical situations and reduce the potential for loss of life (e.g., search and rescue, medical evacuation).

### **CONCLUSION**

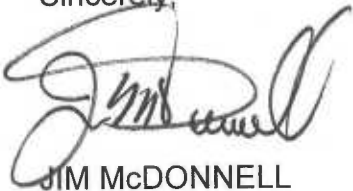
The Department will engage in negotiations with AMC in two weeks unless otherwise instructed by the Board.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors - 3 -

March 11, 2015

Should additional information be requested, your staff may contact Contracts Manager Angelo Faiella, Contracts Unit, at (323) 526-5183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McDonnell", written over a horizontal line.

JIM McDONNELL  
SHERIFF

JM:TL:tl  
(Fiscal Administration-Contracts Unit)

c: Board of Supervisors, Justice Deputies  
Patrick Ogawa, Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Brence Culp, Chief Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Sheila Williams, Manager, Chief Executive Office (CEO)  
Jocelyn Ventilacion, Lead Analyst, CEO  
Aileen Yu, Senior Analyst, CEO  
Brian Lew, Public Affairs Office  
Mark J. Saladino, County Counsel  
Michele Jackson, Principal Deputy County Counsel  
Elizabeth D. Miller, Chief Legal Advisor, Legal Advisory Unit  
Neal B. Tyler, Executive Officer  
Richard J. Barrantes, Assistant Sheriff  
Terri McDonald, Assistant Sheriff  
Todd S. Rogers, Assistant Sheriff  
Michael J. Rothans, Assistant Sheriff  
Georgia Mattera, Senior Assistant Chief Executive Officer  
Glen Dragovich, Division Director, Administrative and Training Division (ATD)  
Joseph S. Hartshorne, Acting Chief, Homeland Security Division (HSD)  
Conrad Meredith, Assistant Division Director, ATD  
Glen Joe, Director, Fiscal Administration  
Andres Ramirez, Captain, HSD  
Patrick T. Bearse, Lieutenant, HSD  
Susie Cousins, Assistant Director, Contracts Unit, Fiscal Administration  
Angelo Faiella, Manager, Contracts Unit, Fiscal Administration  
Bryan C. Aguilera, Sergeant, ATD  
Derek S. Sabatini, Sergeant, ATD  
Morrie C. Zager, Sergeant, HSD  
Erick F. Martinez, Deputy, ATD  
Tony Liu, Contracts Analyst, ATD, Contracts Unit  
Chrono File  
(Contracts/Adv. Notif. – Air Methods Corp 03-11-15)